Aid to drought-hit Chhattisgarh

1814. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drought-hit Chhattisgarh has asked for the Central aid to help drought-hit districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that Orissa is also similarly placed and whether the Central Government also propose to help the State in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) During South-West Monsoon, 2005 (1.6.2005 to 30.9.2005), the rainfall received in Chhattisgarh State as a whole was within the normal range. The State Government neither reported drought situation nor sent any Memorandum for Central assistance for drought relief;

(c) and (d) Orissa State also received rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 2005 within the normal range. The State Government neither reported drought situation nor sent any Memorandum for Central assistance for drought relief.

(State Governments do not often report isolated aberration and deal with localized problem at their level)

Expending training facilities

1815. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would expand the training facilities for crew to meet the demand of the tuna fishing industry;

(b) whether Government propose to set up training institutes like CIFNET in Visakhapatnam, Paradeep and other places;

(c) to what extent Government have developed a system of certification to allow non-Indians to work in the country in the fishery sector;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government are unable to meet the demand for trained crew in India; and

(e) the steps proposed to assist the Indian fishery sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CIFNET with Headquarter at Kochi has two field units: (i) Chennai and (ii) Visakhapatnam. There is no proposal to set up training institutes at Paradeep and other places.

(c) The foreign national employed on board on the deep sea fishing vessel are given clearance by the Ministry after obtaining the clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs from security angle under intimation to the Coast Guard.

(d) The persons trained under Mate Fishing Vessel Course and Engine Driver Fishing Vessel Course organized by CIFNET is sufficient to man the fishing vessels in the country.

(e) The Central Government extends financial assistance to the States to implement schemes for development of fisheries sector. Two macro schemes entitled "Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture" and "Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations" encompassing various components are in place.

Decrease in area under cultivation

1816. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the area under cultivation has decreased over the years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, stating the major crops the cultivation areas of which have decreased; and

(c) the reasons for this decrease and the steps taken to bring more areas under cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The area under major foodgrains and other commercial crops